



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: March 1, 2011

Subject

Authorize applications for grant funding from the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Clean Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Program of 2000 for Stevens Creek Corridor Park Phase II, Project 9134.

Recommended Action

Adopt resolutions authorizing applications for grant funding.

Discussion

The Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Program (CSC Program) was passed by voters as a special tax in 2000. Its elements were developed to meet various objectives. The charter of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors directs the District to protect public health and safety and enhance the quality of life in Santa Clara County. The Board of Directors identified outcomes that the flood protection and stream stewardship program is to achieve as a means of accomplishing these goals.

Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grant Program

This program focuses on the CSC Program outcome supporting healthy creek and bay ecosystems and their protection, enhancement or restoration. The primary enhancement element of the program, with approximately \$2 million available annually over 15 years, is being carried out partly through the execution of Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grants. This year, it is estimated that \$1.8 million will be available.

The Environmental Enhancements Program and its associated Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grants (Enhancement Grants) implement the CSC Program goal which calls for creation of additional wetlands, riparian habitat and favorable stream conditions for fisheries and wildlife. The Enhancement Grants will assist sponsors of restoration and enhancement projects with the construction phase of appropriate projects. Eligible projects include enhancement projects for creeks, tidal areas and wetlands, fish barrier removal, improvement of endangered species habitat, removal of invasive species, planting of native species, and habitat improvement.

Trail and Open Space Grant Program

This program focuses on the CSC Program outcome which supports additional open space, trails and parks along creeks and in watersheds where appropriate. The objective of the trails element of the special tax is to provide public access to 70 miles of trails or open space along creeks and in watersheds. Approximately \$920,000 is available annually over 15 years.

The Fiscal Year 2011 Trail and Open Space Grant Program is the fourth grant round to utilize special tax funds for the development of access to trails and open space, and to increase public access to, and enjoyment of, public areas for increased recreational opportunities. Eligible projects will create new public access where it did not previously exist and include a new creekside trail or a significant link to support a creekside trail network.

Grant applications must include an authorizing resolution from the applicant's governing body to apply for and receive grant funds. Staff recommends that the City Council authorize applications to the District's Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grant Program and to the Trail and Open Space Grant Program for Stevens Creek Corridor Phase II, and the adoption of associated resolutions.

Sustainability Impact

Implementation of Phase II of the Stevens Creek Corridor Park project is consistent with the City's sustainability goals. The added section of trail would expand pedestrian and bicycle alternatives to motorized travel, and creek restoration would improve habitat and support a healthy creek ecosystem.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact for the recommended action. If the grant application is successful, additional funding would become available for the project.

Prepared by: Gail Seeds

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David W. Knapp, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution, Application to Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grant Program of the 2000 Clean Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Program
2. Draft Resolution, Application to Trail and Open Space Grant Program of the 2000 Clean Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Program